

Benefits of the Geospatial Platform

America's ability to identify, engage, and develop public solutions is enlivened by consideration of "place." Solving major issues such as climate change, healthcare, homeland security, pandemics, energy, resilient and sustainable communities, and the mortgage crisis, depend, in part, on our capacity to map, understand, analyze, and then act on information using geospatial resources.

Managing and using information spatially is a critical resource and service component for our national government. The Administration has called for the creation of a *Geospatial Platform* to support place-based initiatives and improve the governance framework to address the requirements of state, local and tribal governments. The Geospatial Platform, a managed portfolio of common geospatial data, services, and applications, will improve access and reliability to more efficiently and effectively meet the mission needs of government, its partners, and its citizens.

As a means to provide an organized approach to the development of this geospatial infrastructure, the partner agencies of the Federal Geographic Data Committee have developed a *Geospatial Platform Modernization Roadmap* as the high-level implementation plan for the Platform.

Implementing the Roadmap strategy will result in a set of future benefits where:

- The geospatial infrastructure serves to foster economic vitality, manage resources, advance health initiatives, protect the homeland, support science, govern the Nation, and facilitate more effective decision-making and management.
- Commercial, academic, nonprofit organizations, and all levels of government work collaboratively with a common set of geospatial policies, procedures, standards, and data models; share common goals and objectives, and coordinate and leverage their efforts;
- Authoritative and interoperable geospatial information and tools are available, accessible, consistently delivered, and routinely used;
- Incentives are in place to ensure equitable technology cost sharing, cost-effective initiatives, continuous progress, and innovation;
- Economies of scale drive technology investments to help leverage increasingly tight budget resources across growing public demands for services;
- Rethinking and regular improvements to the geospatial value chain helps extended the nation-wide enterprise of optimizing public policy and management.

These direct and indirect benefits ultimately work to form a new foundation to empower government civic participation and democratization through open sharing of government geospatial assets. As we anticipate lean budgets in the coming years, the collaborative actions of our community become even more important.

For more information about the Geospatial Platform, visit <http://www.geoplatform.gov/>. To join in the conversation, you are invited to participate in the dialogue at <http://geoplatform.ideascale.com/>.